Visiting
the
Community Galleries on L3
at the
National Museum of African American History and Culture

NATIONAL MUSEUM
of AFRICAN AMERICAN
HISTORY & CULTURE

NATIONAL MUSEUM of AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY & CULTURE

Today I will visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture.

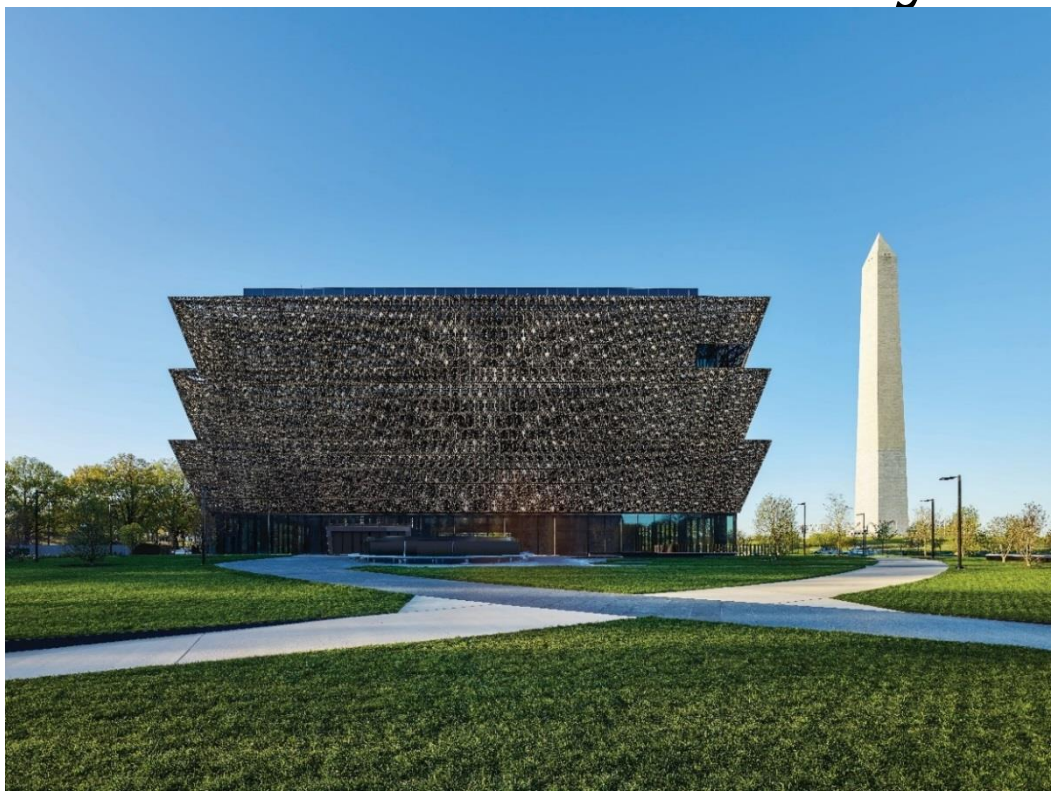

Photo courtesy: Alan Karchmer/NMAAHC

While we are in the museum today we are going to look at African American history through different lenses.

A lens is a clear curved piece of glass or plastic that is used in eyeglasses, cameras, telescopes, etc., that make things look clearer, smaller, or bigger.

When we say we are going to view something through a different lens, it means we're going to look at in a different way.

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Today, we are going to see the exhibits in the Community Galleries on Level 3.

Sports: Leveling the Playing Field

Power of Place

Photos courtesy: Alan Karchmer/NMAAHC

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These galleries will look at African American history through the lenses of sports, migration, education, and the military. These exhibitions will explore the lives and achievements of black individuals in the face of injustice.

Photo courtesy: Amanda Maglio/NMAAHC

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To get to the exhibit, we may go up or down the escalator or we might take the elevator.

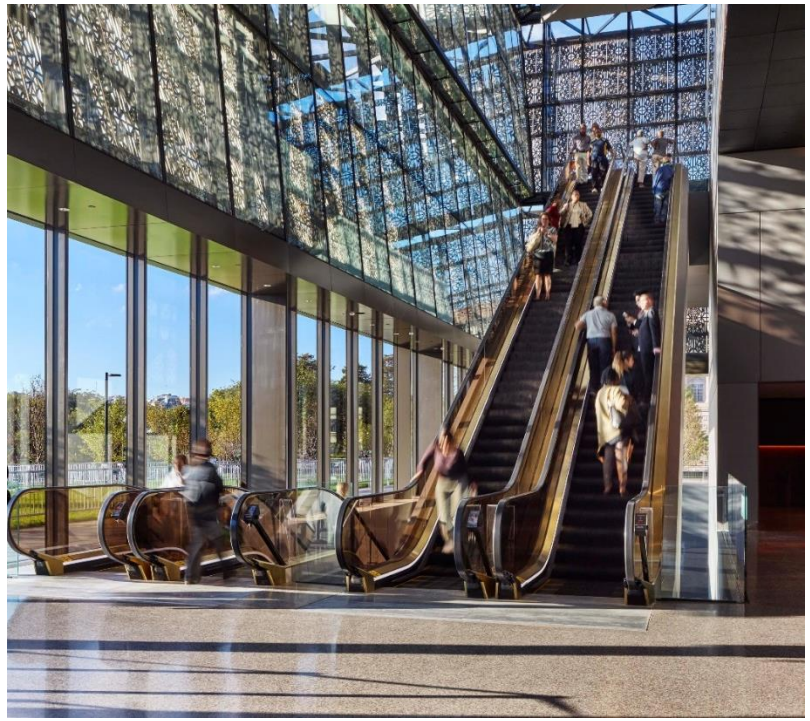

Photo courtesy: Alan Karchmer/NMAAHC

Photo courtesy: Amanda Maglio/NMAAHC

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I will stay with my adult and we will wait our turn to use the elevator or escalator. We may also need to stand in line to enter the exhibits.

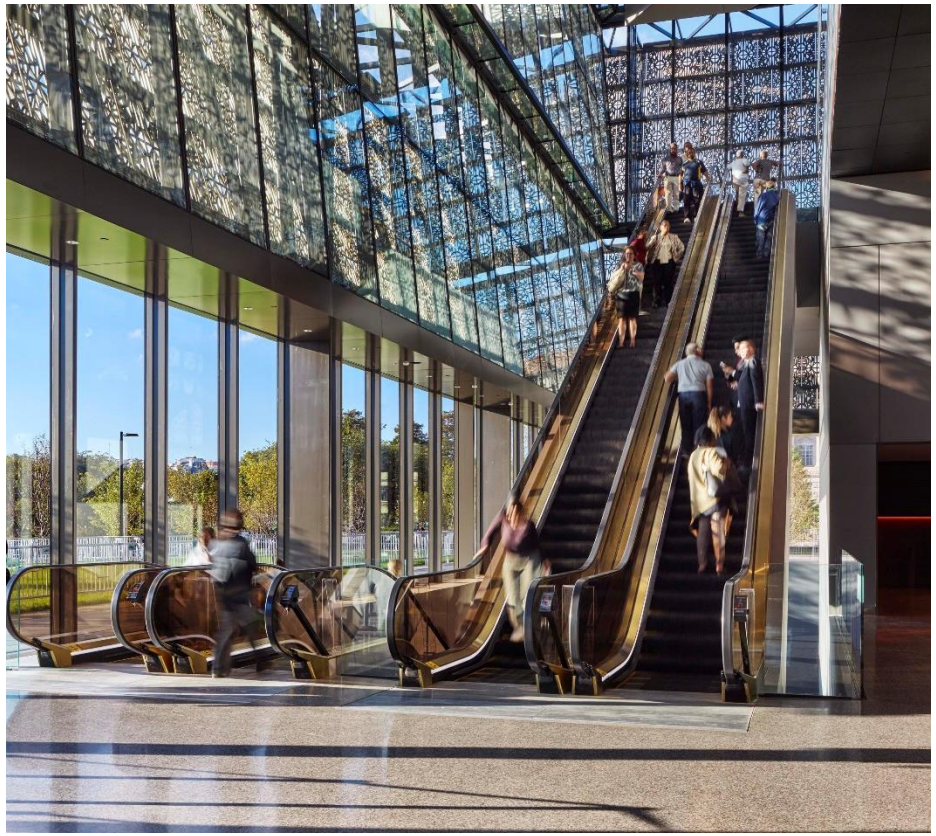

Photo courtesy: Alan Karchmer/NMAAHC

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We will have to be patient.
I will use my calming toys if I feel worried.

It is important to stay with my grownup or group as we go through the galleries. The galleries are large and my grownup or group can help me walk from place to place.

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If I have a question in the museum, I can also ask a staff member or volunteer for help. They know a lot about the museum and can give visitors information.

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Some of the exhibits may make noise. Sometimes it will be people telling a story or music will play. Other times I may hear sound effects like cars or rain. I will remember that these sounds are not real.

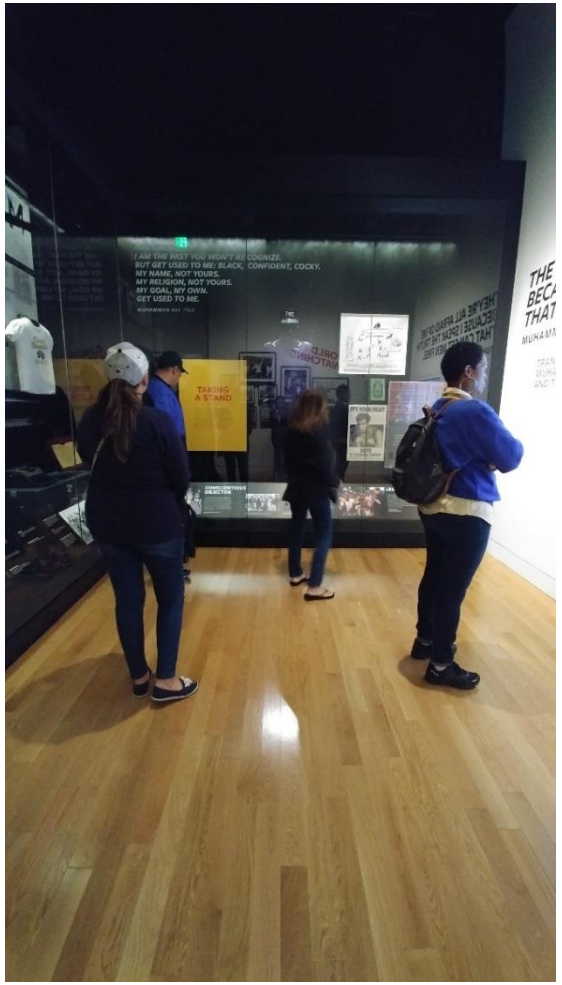

Photo courtesy: Amanda Maglio/NMAAHC

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Sometimes the interactive areas will make noise. When I come across a video or voice recording, I can use my headphones or go to a quieter part of the museum.

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There will be some things I am allowed to touch or play with. If I'm not sure, I can ask my grownup or a museum staff person if it is okay.

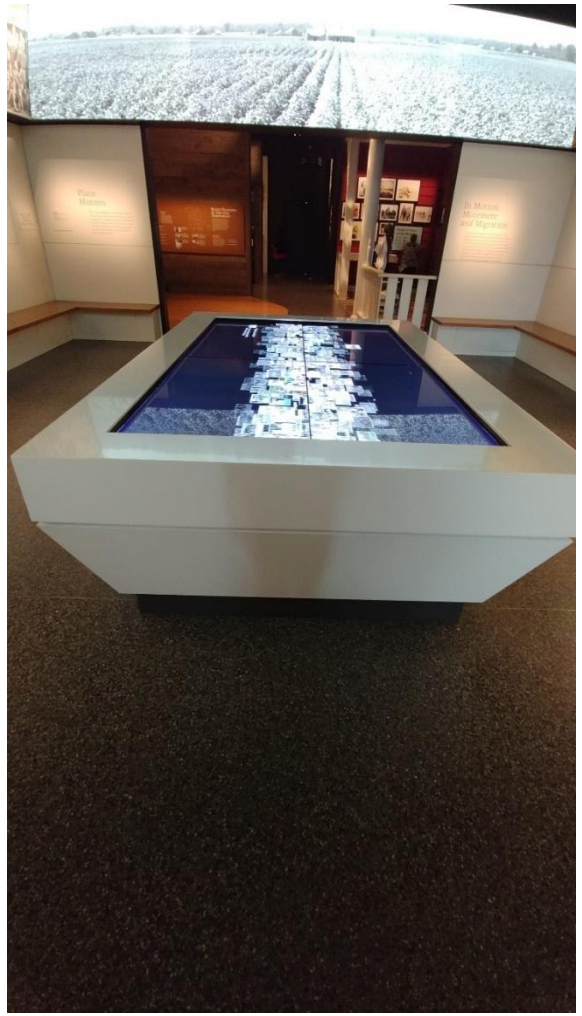

Photo courtesy: Amanda Maglio/NMAAHC

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Photo courtesy: Alan Karchmer/NMAAHC

One thing I will see in *Power of Place* is the Hometown Hub. It is an interactive experience that will let me hear and see stories from places all over the country. I can also put myself on the map and tell my own story.

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Sometimes the museum gets crowded. I may need to wait for my turn. If the wait is too long, I can look at something else and come back later.

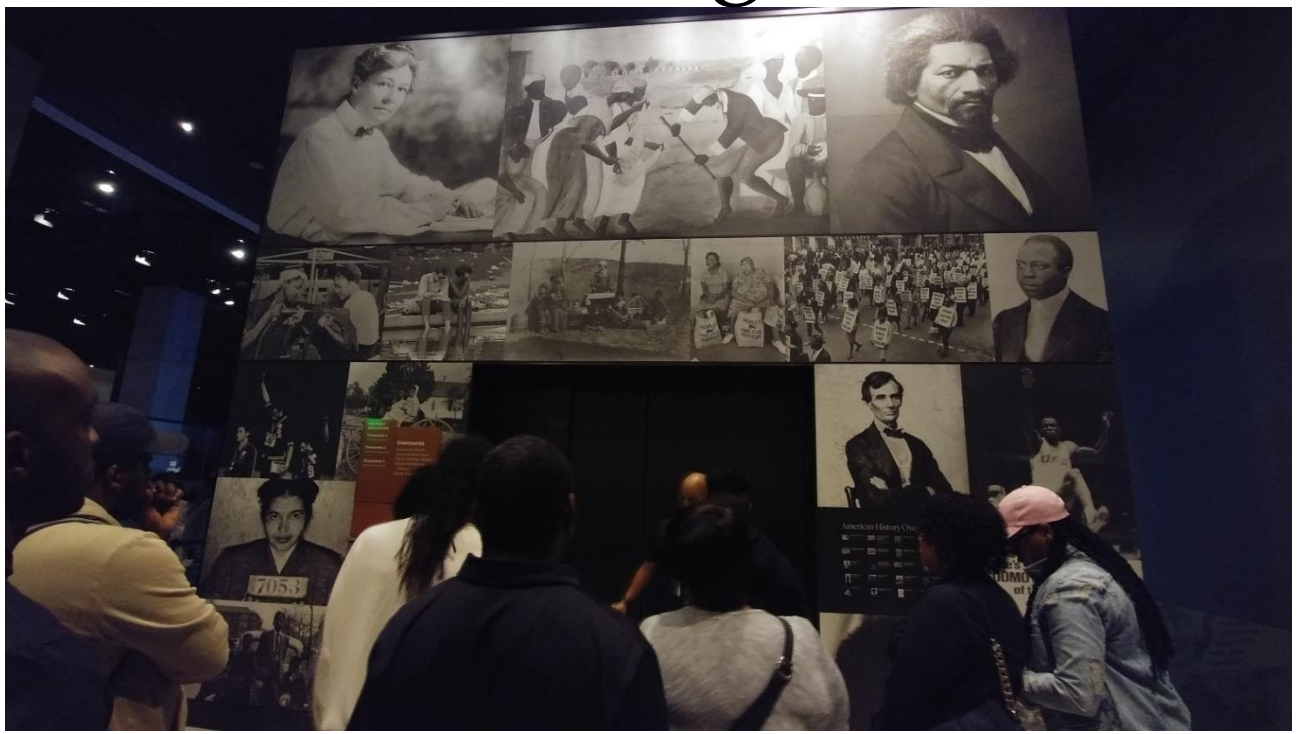

Photo courtesy: Amanda Maglio/NMAAHC

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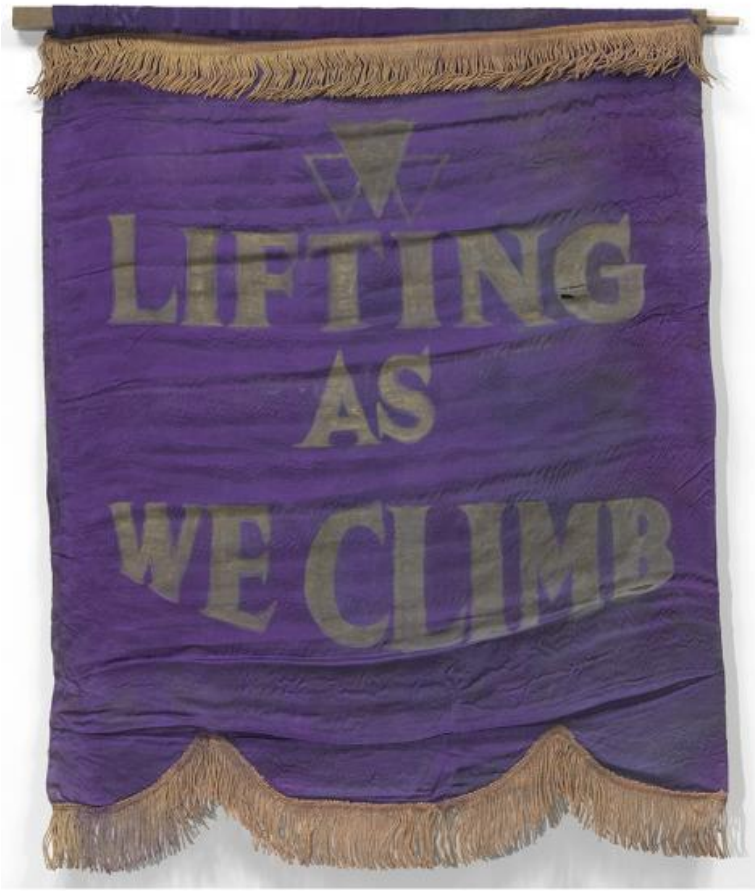

Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture.

In the *Making a Way Out of No Way* exhibit I may see this banner with the motto of Oklahoma Federation of Colored Women's Clubs, ca. 1924.

Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, gifted by Ray R. and Patricia A.D. Charlton in memory of Cornelius H. Charlton, 2013.

In the *Double Victory* exhibition, I might see the Medal of Honor that was bestowed posthumously on Sergeant Cornelius H. Charlton in 1952 for his actions in the Korean War.

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Photo courtesy: Alan Karchmer/NMAAHC

I may also enter a room focused on education, specifically Mary McLeod Bethune in the *Making a Way Out of No Way* exhibition.

Collection of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, image courtesy of Henry Leutwyler, NYC.

In *Sports: Leveling the Playing Field* one of the objects I might see is Muhammad Ali's boxing glove.

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Today I visited the National Museum of African American History and Culture and learned how to look at communities in a different way. Museums are a great way to learn about different communities.

Photo courtesy: Alan Karchmer/NMAAHC

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A People's Journey.
A Nation's Story.

Smithsonian